

REMARKS

This is in response to the Office Action dated August 22, 2007. In view of the foregoing amendments and following representations, reconsideration is respectfully requested.

By the above amendment, claims 5-9 have been cancelled and replaced with new claims 10-15. Thus, claims 10-15 are currently pending in the present application.

Initially, the specification and abstract have been reviewed and revised in order to place the application in a preferred U.S. format. Due to the nature of the revision involved, a substitute specification and abstract has been prepared. No new matter has been added. A "marked-up" copy of the specification and abstract (entitled "*Version with Markings to Show Changes Made*") is submitted herewith to show the changes that have been incorporated into the substitute specification and abstract.

On page 3 of the Office Action, claims 5 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Schroeder et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4, 705,114). It is submitted that the present invention, as embodied by the new claims, clearly patentably distinguishes over the Schroeder reference for the following reasons.

The present invention, as defined in new independent claim 10, is directed to a fluid separator comprising a pipe separator (singular separator body) having an inlet and an outlet, and a pipe bend disposed downstream of the pipe separator. The pipe bend forms a downstream fluid seal for maintaining a fluid level in the separator and enabling pigging (e.g. cleaning) of the separator.

Schroeder discloses shows an offshore marine structure including a separator with several different upper and lower chambers (72, 73, 74, etc.) interconnected by means of piping (80) to form

an integrated separation unit. However, Schroeder has nothing in common with the present invention since the present invention is a pipe separator, rather than a multi chamber separation unit. Further, it is noted that the bend the Examiner refers to is a horizontal U-shaped bend, which does not form a liquid seal as in the present invention.

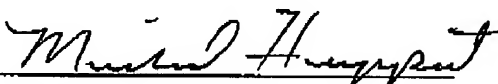
Furthermore, it is noted, with appreciation, that claims 6 and 8-9 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. New claims 11 and 13-14 correspond to claims 6 and 8-9, respectfully, and are therefore allowable over the prior art of record.

In view of the above, it is submitted that the present application is now clearly in condition for allowance. The Examiner therefore is requested to pass this case to issue.

In the event that the Examiner has any comments or suggestions of a nature necessary to place this case in condition for allowance, then the Examiner is requested to contact Applicant's undersigned attorney by telephone to promptly resolve any remaining matters.

Respectfully submitted,

Per Eivind GRAMME et al.

By: 

Michael S. Huppert
Registration No. 40,268
Attorney for Applicants

MSH/krg
Washington, D.C. 20006-1021
Telephone (202) 721-8200
Facsimile (202) 721-8250
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